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Progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/90

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/90 of 12 December 1997, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity". The year 1998 marks the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations involvement in crime prevention and criminal justice. The report is written following a period during which intergovernmental bodies have taken a fresh look at the Programme. They reviewed the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of programme management in the then Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (A/52/777, annex) and the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;[1] the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice received the first report of its working group on mandates and resources as part of its strategic management of the Programme; and the responsible Secretariat office began to implement the Secretary-General's proposals for reform under the leadership of a new Executive Director. Those developments provided new impulses that have begun to manifest themselves in the Programme's activities.

II. Seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

2. The seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Vienna from 21 to 30 April 1998. Its prominent theme was transnational organized crime, one of the priority areas of the Programme's work. The report on the session[2] contains details on its deliberations, the action taken by the Commission and the implications of the mandates contained in the resolutions recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, respectively.

III. Programme activities

A. Technical cooperation

3. A detailed report on technical cooperation, including resource mobilization and coordination of activities,[3] was presented to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session. It reviewed the operational activities carried out in 1997 and the first quarter of 1998. According to the report, the Centre for International Crime Prevention was associated with the provision of technical cooperation to some 23 countries worldwide.

4. Recently, the Centre began to concentrate its technical cooperation activities in national and regional programmes to combat organized crime, corruption and bribery. There are three main anti-corruption projects under implementation, financed by a contribution of the United States of America through the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, namely, in Lebanon ($232,000), Romania ($312,000) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ($30,000). The Fund is also financing a project to control economic crime in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a police training programme to combat organized crime in Croatia and measures to counteract organized crime and commercial crime in South Africa ($415,000). The Danish International Development Agency and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are contributing to a project to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan to combat organized crime. A joint project of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention is under way in the Russian Federation to control drug trafficking and organized crime.

5. At the same time, the Centre formulates and implements projects to improve prison conditions, to develop national juvenile justice systems, to counter domestic violence and to strengthen the capacity of institutions of criminal justice generally. By mid-1998, 24 new projects had been formulated in response to governmental requests. Funding is now being sought for those projects directly and through an informal consultative group on resource mobilization, established by the Commission in 1996, which successfully mobilized some resources in 1997. The Economic and Social Council has called upon potential donors and relevant funding agencies to make significant and regular financial and/or other contributions for the formulation, coordination and implementation of technical assistance projects.

6. The year 1998 saw an intensification of cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in the context of the new Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, in particular with regard to projects in Africa, central Asia, the Balkans and the Caribbean region. Joint missions were undertaken to Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and in the Caucasus region, which have resulted in specific project proposals. The Centre has contributed to the background analysis for a possible strategy for the reduction of illicit

drug crops cultivation, which was recently considered by the General Assembly at its special session devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and activities. In cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Centre has worked on the elaboration of a model law against corruption that contains provisions designed to assist requesting States to prevent, detect and fight corruption in a more effective way.

7. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the Centre are launching a project to counter trafficking in human beings, forced labour and sexual exploitation. Following an initial research study, the project will develop model legislation, training modules for police and immigration officials, control and regulatory mechanisms for trafficking and victim protection programmes. Other bodies of the United Nations system, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Migration Organization are expected to be involved in various stages of the project.

8. The Centre has also organized training programmes to combat organized crime in Croatia, Kyrgyzstan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A two-week training seminar on mutual assistance and extradition was organized for 33 judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials from all the countries of the Economic Community of West African States at Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire. An Asian Regional Ministerial Workshop on Transnational Crime, whose central theme was the prevention and control of corruption, was held in Manila in March 1998. Juvenile justice training seminars have taken place in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Rwanda and South Africa. Training for prison staff took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Russian Federation. The Centre participated in human rights training for police in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guinea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Study tours for Bosnian judicial personnel was organized to Austria and Italy, while study tours for Kyrgyzstan police officials were organized to Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The regular budget for technical cooperation provided fellowships for two high-level criminal justice professionals, one from Mali and the other from Uganda. Staff from the Centre also participated as resource persons in courses organized by other institutions on corruption, transnational organized crime, money-laundering and bribery. The Centre is also in the process of revising the manual on practical measures against corruption and developing a training manual on action against organized crime.

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/90, the Centre continues to make contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations through training programmes for civilian police in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Together with the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force, the Centre has produced a pocket book on United Nations criminal justice standards for law enforcement officials and it has published the United Nations criminal justice standards and norms in the Bosnian language in collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. With the support of the Government of Austria, the Centre organized a Conference on Establishing the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict Situations in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Austria will finance the publication of the documentation and conclusions of the Conference. The Centre also produced a booklet entitled "The Role, Preparation and Performance of Civilian Police in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations". At the request of the Department for Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and UNDP, the Centre has become increasingly involved in rebuilding criminal justice systems after conflicts, in particular in Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Haiti.

B. Progress made in the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

10. The reports considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session dealt with the procedural and substantive aspects of the Tenth Congress.[4] During the session, the Commission accepted the invitation of the Government of Austria to host the Congress in Vienna. Its duration was reduced from 10 to 8 days—from 10 to 17 April 2000—followed immediately by a 3-day session of the Commission to consider its conclusions. The Commission approved a provisional agenda for the Tenth Congress and decided that its theme should be "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century". The holding and duration of

regional preparatory meetings are to be limited to the extent possible. The discussion on those and other Congress-related issues is reflected in the relevant part of the Commission's report on its seventh session.[2]

11. The discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings as well as that on the workshops, ancillary meetings, symposia and exhibits were reviewed by the Commission and have been finalized. The programme of work, including four technical workshops and their topics, were endorsed by the Commission, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/91 of 12 December 1997.

12. To streamline the costs of the preparatory process and the Congress itself, the regional preparatory meetings to be held in autumn 1998 and in early 1999 will be devoted exclusively to the examination of substantive agenda items and workshop topics and to action-oriented recommendations that are to serve as the basis for a single declaration to be drafted at the Congress.

13. At the time of writing, the Secretariat had begun to make preparations for the regional preparatory meetings, the first of which is to be held in Africa in October 1998, followed by those in Asia in November 1998, in western Asia in December 1998 and in Latin America and the Caribbean in February 1999. The countries of western Europe and others have decided not to hold a preparatory meeting.

14. By operative paragraph 13 (b) of the draft resolution on the Tenth Congress that will be before the General Assembly at its fifty-third session,[3] the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information related to the preparations for the Tenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the implementation of its conclusions. The participants of the seventh session of the Commission were informed that implementation of that request would have financial implications that would have to be met from extrabudgetary resources.

C. International cooperation in combating organized transnational crime

15. The report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session[2] reflects the fact that the Commission considered detailed reports[6] on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 1994 (A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A). Those reports described the activities that had taken place during the past 12 months with regard to the drafting of an international convention against organized transnational crime and other possible instruments, as well as activities in the area of mutual assistance and international cooperation in criminal matters. Some progress has been made since then in the preparations leading to the drafting of the convention and is brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/14.

16. Pursuant to that resolution, the General Assembly would decide to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transportation of migrants, including by sea. The first meeting of the ad hoc committee will be held in Vienna from 18 to 29 January 1999. The Assembly would also elect the chairman of the ad hoc committee.

17. The working group on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan, which was convened at the seventh session of the Commission, recommended that the Chairman of the ad hoc committee should be assisted by an informal working group of friends of the chair, which should meet as resources permitted. The first meeting of that informal group was held in Rome in July 1998 to discuss organizational and procedural matters related to the work of the ad hoc committee. The group reviewed and approved a provisional timetable indicating the expected needs of the ad hoc committee as regards meetings until the completion of its task. States have undertaken to finalize the drafting of the convention in time for its approval by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, in 2000. The timetable enables the Secretariat to plan its substantive and technical work in such a way as to seek to accommodate the needs of the ad hoc committee within existing resources. The group also recommended that the ad hoc committee hold its second meeting in Vienna from 8 to 12 March 1999.

18. In order to allow for the work on the drafting of the convention to proceed without interruption, the Government of Argentina offered to host an informal preparatory meeting of the ad hoc committee in Buenos Aires from 31 August to 4 September 1998. At the time of writing the present report, preparations for that meeting were well under way. The informal group of Friends of the

Chair recommended that the meeting in Buenos Aires complete the first reading of the draft convention, which had been started during the seventh session of the Commission, and begin negotiations on the consolidated text. In addition, the meeting should discuss the relationship of the above-mentioned three international instruments or protocols to the convention against transnational organized crime (see para. 16). The Governments of Finland, France, Tunisia and the United Kingdom submitted additional working papers containing specific proposals on the text of the convention or additional international instruments before the ad hoc committee.

19. The drafting of the convention and additional international instruments is considered one of the top priorities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Through advance planning, assisted by clear indications of the needs of the ad hoc committee, the Centre will make every possible effort to carry out the work within existing resources. However, in view of the vigorous pace, the short time available and, consequently, the growing needs of the ad hoc committee, the support of States to obtain additional resources may become essential. The same holds true for the resources that will be necessary for the Centre to promote and ensure the implementation of the new convention.

D. Measures to regulate firearms

20. As reported to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session, the Centre for International Crime Prevention published the report of the United Nations international study on firearm regulation,[7] which includes information provided by 69 Governments on firearm-related crimes and accidents, national legislation, trafficking in firearms and national, regional and international initiatives. Using the outcome of the study as the basis for discussion, the Centre organized four regional workshops on firearm regulation for the purposes of crime prevention and public safety between September 1997 and January 1998, in Brazil, India, Slovenia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

21. The results of the United Nations international study on firearm regulation were welcomed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/18, and the drafting of an international instrument was recommended to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition within the context of a United Nations convention against transnational organized crime. The Centre will convene, support and follow up the meetings of an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee on the drafting of the above-mentioned instrument and convention.

22. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/18, the Centre is also preparing an action plan for collecting, reviewing and exchanging statistics, information and policy proposals on criminal use of explosives. The possibility of convening a meeting of a group of experts to consider the action plan is being examined by the Centre. Those activities will depend on the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

23. A coordinated United Nations approach is particularly useful and urgent on all aspects of the question of firearms. The related but different features of military defence and criminal justice have to be addressed in a balanced context. The Centre is participating with other United Nations offices and programmes in an effort to coordinate work on small arms. Within that context, the Centre could assist in (a) establishing a database on existing laws and regulations on firearms; (b) law reform and drafting of new legislation on firearms; (c) training courses for law enforcement officials involved in controlling illegal trafficking of arms, including detection; (d) tracing and investigation of illicit trafficking of firearms; and (e) development of public awareness programmes. The United Nations is increasingly concerned about the need for firearm regulation. Effective coordination of related initiatives undertaken by different offices and programmes within the system is paramount. A meeting devoted to that purpose was held in New York in early August.

E. The development, analysis and policy use of crime and criminal justice information and the computerization of criminal justice operations

24. Pursuant response to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/11 and 1997/27, the Centre for International Crime Prevention has established an Advisory Steering Group on Data Collection and Computerization. With the support of the Governments of Argentina and the Netherlands, two meetings of the Group were held, in Buenos Aires, from 10 to 13 March 1997, and in Veldhoven, from 18 to 21 March 1998.

25. The objectives of those meetings were fourfold and have formed the strategy through which the Centre is addressing those fields: (a) to streamline the sixth United Nations surveys on crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems; (b) to offer comments and input to the

draft guide on the development and analysis of criminal justice statistics; (c) to develop a strategy and a survey instrument for the collection of data and information on organized transnational crime; and (d) to establish a pool of experts to assist requesting Governments in the computerization of the criminal justice system. Activities related to the four areas are outlined below.

26. The quinquennial surveys on crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems are the Centre's primary vehicle for the collection of statistics on crime trends and criminal justice. To date, over 100 countries have provided official data on police, prosecution, courts, prisons and resource allocation. Those data have been organized into an electronic database and are available via the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network, an Internet-based World Wide Web site.[8] The sixth wave of the survey will be administered to Governments in the last quarter of 1998 and, as indicated above, has been sufficiently streamlined and simplified.

27. Data collected via the crime surveys are useful to Member States for planning and policy-making related to their criminal justice systems. Such data are now available in several publications, most notably in the *Global Report on Crime and Justice*,[9] which offers a comprehensive review of the state of crime in the world, addressing topics as diverse as punishment, policing strategies, crime prevention, firearm regulation, drug control and organized crime. In addition, with the support of the Statistics Division of the Secretariat and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, the Centre is finalizing a guide on the development and analysis of criminal justice statistics. The goal of the publication is to assist developing countries in the collection, maintenance and analysis of crime and criminal justice data and information. Finally, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), is publishing the *European and North American Analysis of the Results of the Fifth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (1990-1994)*.

28. Owing to the refocusing of the Programme, and as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1996/27 and 1997/22, the Centre is expanding its central repository on organized transnational crime. Specifically, the expert participants at the above-mentioned meeting in Veldhoven (see para. 24) drafted an organized crime survey that has been distributed to government representatives of the Advisory Steering Group on a pilot basis. Based on feedback received, the survey will be distributed to all Member States in due course. As with other data and information gathered by the Centre, the results of the survey will be entered into an electronic database and made available to requesting parties. In addition, legislative material obtained from Governments as a result of the note verbale process and other relevant information is being included in the central repository.

29. Limited resources have affected the Centre's ability to establish a pool of experts to assist Governments with computerization projects. However, it has developed and expanded a roster of experts that includes individuals knowledgeable in the field. Earmarked contributions and in-kind assistance are required to meet the needs of requesting States. In spite of limitations, there has been an expansion of the database and information dissemination activities of the Centre.

30. A *Resource Book* was published in the spring of 1998 focusing on criminal justice information in the information age; key issues in introducing information technology in criminal justice; United Nations assistance to Member States in needs assessment and strategic planning; an introduction to the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network and the United Nations Online Crime and Justice Clearinghouse (UNOJUST);[10] strategies for information management; legal and security issues; strategies for information dissemination; a glossary of technical terminology; and a listing of Internet resources in crime prevention and criminal justice. It was published with in-kind assistance from the School of Informatics of the University of Vienna, Austria, the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. The publication was the result of a training course entitled "The United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network: Providing Information to and from Developing Countries" hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in 1996.

31. The amount of data and information contained in the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network has expanded and now includes the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session, in full and in English, French and Spanish. As noted above, the data gathered through the United Nations crime surveys are available in various formats on the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network Web site. In addition, the data and information gathered by the United Nations international survey on firearm regulation is presented. As a result of a sabbatical project of a visiting professor to the Centre, the Information Network now contains a global bibliography of prison systems, a collection of over 600 citations from more than 30 countries.[11] Lastly, links have been established with the International Money Laundering Information Network.

F. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

32. The Centre for International Crime Prevention reported to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in detail on recent activities related to standards and norms[12] and on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice.[13] In addition, the Centre presented to the Commission a guide for policy makers on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (resolution 40/34, annex) and a handbook on justice for victims concerning the use and application of the Declaration. The following activities have been carried out since then or are mandated for the near future.

33. At the request of the Economic and Social Council, the Centre will continue the information-gathering on the use and application of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Centre will submit to the Commission at its ninth session a report on the use and application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules) (resolution 45/110, annex); the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors[14] and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.[15] The Centre will also prepare updated reports where at least 30 States have replied in respect of a standard and norm on which a report has already been submitted. At the same time, the Centre will prepare survey instruments on the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions (resolution 51/191, annex), the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security (resolution 51/60, annex) and the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials (resolution 51/59, annex).

34. As recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (resolution 44/25, annex) frequently seek assistance from the United Nations in juvenile justice. In order to meet such requests and pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30, the Secretary-General has established a coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice. The panel will ensure a coordinated response by the United Nations, including the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP and the network of non-governmental organizations working in the field of juvenile justice. Work will initially focus on Bangladesh, Guatemala, Lebanon, the Philippines and Uganda.

35. At the request of the Economic and Social Council, the Centre will develop a database on practical national experiences regarding victim assistance, in particular as regards case law and legislation on the use and application of the Declaration, taking into account different systems and traditions. The Government of the Netherlands has offered to help establish such a database and to maintain it for an initial duration of three years. The Centre will also convene a working group, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands, on the feasibility of establishing an international fund for victims of crime and abuse of power, consisting of Member States that express an interest in such a fund. The fund would support technical assistance to develop and/or strengthen victim support services and organizations, awareness campaigns on victim rights and crime prevention and eligible victim claims resulting from international and transnational crime, where national avenues of recourse and/or redress are unavailable or insufficient.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations of the Office for Internal Oversight Services

36. The Secretariat has begun to implement the recommendations contained in the two reports of the Office for Internal Oversight Services (see para. 1). As regards the recommendations made in connection with the in-depth evaluation of the Programme, a public information strategy is being developed. An Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention Web page has been created providing information on activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention and a newsletter is being published by the Office four times a year. A mechanism for the registration of Web site users will be in place by early October 1998. External relations capabilities have been increased, capitalizing on synergies of the Office. Officials with policy-making responsibilities were trained and training was also provided to technical cooperation staff in project development and management. Procedures for the granting of executing agency status by UNDP were well advanced at the time the present report was written. As mentioned elsewhere, besides the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, closer linkages for technical cooperation activities have been established with various intergovernmental organizations such as UNICEF, UNHCR, the World Bank and the South-East European Cooperative Initiative.

37. Progress has also been made on the implementation of recommendations related to the review of programme

management of the Centre. Regular senior staff meetings have been held with the Director-General, as well as with the Officer-in-Charge and selected staff members of the Centre, to provide strategic direction and guidance. Restructuring of the Centre has created an institutional environment that provides for a greater focus on organized crime and corruption and increased emphasis on technical cooperation. Mandatory reporting to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be substantially reduced—as of its eighth session, only one report on the work of the Centre will be submitted by the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention for the consideration of the Commission. Further, the Director-General has, in consultation with the Informal Consultative Group on Resource Mobilization, established by the Commission in 1996, undertaken preliminary discussions with some delegations about the establishment of a donor group for crime prevention activities and the functions of the Programme Support Service of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme have been extended to the Centre.

V. Strategic management and resource mobilization

A. Strategic management of the Programme by the Commission

38. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice discussed the Executive Director's proposals addressing the continuing gap between the Programme's mandates and its resources, and considered the Secretary-General's report on strategic management.[16] It also considered the first report of the informal working group to review the mandates and resources of the Programme,[17] as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its review of programme management in the then Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (A/52/777, annex).

39. The Commission agreed on the usefulness of concentrating work on specific issues for defined periods. At the same time, there was a need to maintain a balance between the current emphasis on combating organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings and the other priority issues of the Programme, also in relation to technical cooperation. Work should also continue on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, information-sharing about their use and application and the strengthening of criminal justice systems.

40. In pursuit of those goals, the Commission reiterated its resolve to exercise self-discipline in the formulation of new mandates, including requests for extensive documentation and reporting. Compared with previous years, there was already a reduction in both documents submitted to the Commission at its seventh session and in additional mandates emanating from it.

41. In general, the Centre's duties associated with servicing intergovernmental bodies should be reduced. The Commission's Bureau was encouraged to play an active role in that respect. As an immediate measure, the Commission reduced the duration of the Tenth Congress from 10 to 8 days and the subsequent ninth session of the Commission from 8 to 3 days. The sole purpose of that session will be consideration of the declaration that is expected to be adopted by the Congress.

B. Internal strategic management

42. The Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was established in November 1997 as part of the reform measures of the Secretary-General. It consists of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. In March 1998, a new organizational structure for the Centre was established and staff were reassigned in accordance with the organizational changes and with a view to achieving a more focused approach to its activities, as recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the context of its strategic management and by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in connection with its recent reviews of the Programme and its management (see para. 1).

43. The Centre pays special attention to combating transnational organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings. At the same time, the Secretariat is fully aware of the Commission's reaffirmation, in its resolution 7/1 on strategic management, of the need to maintain a balance between the current main priority issue of combating transnational organized crime and the other priority issues of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and has taken steps to ensure a balanced work programme within the constraints of its limited resources. That balance is achieved primarily through ongoing work related to promoting and monitoring the use and application of existing standards and norms and the selection of appropriate technical cooperation projects.

44. Following the establishment of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the restructuring of the

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division as the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the setting up of an in-house Strategy Committee on Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention identified synergies and coordinated more closely the interlinked undertakings of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Some of the solutions found thus far have had a positive impact on the utilization of the Centre's resources for substantive work rather than for servicing and administrative tasks.

C. Resource mobilization

45. The Commission determined that all activities envisaged in the resolutions adopted by it must be implemented within existing resources or through extrabudgetary resources. Consequently, unless extrabudgetary resources—including voluntary contributions—are received, newly mandated activities not foreseen in the current programme budget cannot be implemented.

46. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/90, the General Assembly called upon States and United Nations funding agencies to make significant financial contributions for the operational activities of the Programme. Operational activities by definition require extrabudgetary funding for their implementation. As reported to the Commission, funds received for technical cooperation activities amounted to $3.1 million in the biennium 1996-1997. So far, projections for the current biennium are not promising. Most of the funds received were earmarked for specific projects, leaving the Centre critically short of resources to create the necessary infrastructure for the identification, formulation and backstopping of technical cooperation projects and thus seriously hampered in its efforts to become more operational.

47. The Informal Consultative Group on Resource Mobilization continues to encourage Member States to examine the list of unfunded project proposals compiled by the Centre and to review their funding policies for development assistance with a view to including crime prevention and criminal justice in such assistance. In conjunction with the Group the Secretariat has undertaken consultations with some previous donors to explore the possibility of setting up a donors' group for crime prevention and criminal justice activities that would request its members to contribute a defined amount on an annual basis.

48. In paragraph 6 of resolution 52/90, the General Assembly called upon all relevant programmes, funds and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular UNDP, the World Bank and other international, regional and national funding agencies, to support technical operational activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

49. Cooperation with UNDP in that regard is good and increasing steadily. Indeed, most of the projects of the Centre are funded in whole or part by UNDP. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/24, the Centre has entered into discussions with UNDP to be recognized by it as an "executing agency". UNDP has disseminated the text of resolution 52/90 to its offices involved in programme development. With particular reference to paragraph 6 of the resolution, UNDP has noted that it was already cooperating with the Centre and that such cooperation could be expected to increase, considering the importance that many countries attached to good governance. As regards programme development and support in the field of crime prevention, UNDP has indicated that it needs the expertise of the Centre. Financial support from UNDP can be provided mainly within the context of country cooperation frameworks, but UNDP is also ready to help interested Governments to raise additional funds for activities developed in cooperation, as well as to explore the possibility for cooperation with the Centre in regional and global activities.

50. UNDP has also disseminated to all its units involved in programme development the text of General Assembly resolution 52/85 of 12 December 1997 on the follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime. With particular reference to paragraph 8 of that resolution, UNDP will be ready to consider requests from Governments for support of technical cooperation projects within the framework of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

Notes

[1] E/AC.51/1998/3.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10*.

[3] E/AC.15/1998/9.

[4] E/AC.15/1998/2 and Add.1/Rev.1 and Add.2.

[5] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10*, chap. I, sect. A, para. 1, draft resolution I.

[6] E/CN.15/1998/5, E/CN.15/1998/6 and Add.1 and 2 and E/CN.15/1998/7.

[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.1998.IV.2.

[8] The United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network is accessible at http://www.ifs.univie.ac.at/~uncjin/uncjin.html.

[9] Forthcoming, Oxford University Press (1998).

[10] UNOJUST was developed by the National Institute of Justice, United States Department of Justice, for the United Nations. It builds on the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network by clearly establishing links between and among the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. UNOJUST is available at http://www.unojust.org/.

[11] The global bibliography of prison systems is accessible at http://www.ifs.univie.ac.at/~uncjin/gbops.

[12] E/CN.15/1998/8.

[13] E/CN.15/1998/8/Add.1.

[14] See *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 26.

[15] Ibid., sect. B.

[16] E/CN.15/1998/10.

[17] E/CN.15/1998/CRP.2.